

7. WISSADULA Medikus, Malvenfam. 24. 1787.

隔蒴苘属 ge shuo qing shu

Herbs or subshrubs, annual or perennial, usually erect, stellate hairy or sometimes glabrate, sometimes with long simple hairs. Leaves simple; leaf blade ovate to narrowly triangular, without foliar nectaries, base cordate, margin entire or crenate-dentate, apex acuminate. Flowers axillary or subterminal, usually grouped into terminal panicles. Pedicels articulate. Epicalyx absent. Calyx shallowly cup-shaped to campanulate, lobes 5, longer than tube. Corolla yellow, cream, or white, small, \pm rotate; petals 5, connate at base, adnate to filament tube. Filament tube shorter than free portions of filaments; anthers all terminal, not exerted. Ovary 3–5-loculed; ovules 3 per locule, usually erect; style arms as many as locules, filiform, longer than filaments; stigmas capitate. Fruit a schizocarp but septicial dehiscence often incomplete (i.e., pseudocapsular), obconical; mericarps 3–5, eventually dehiscent, transversely divided by an internal septum into an indehiscent proximal cell and a dehiscent terminal cell, apex beaked. Seeds 1–3 per mericarp, 1 in proximal cell and usually 2 in distal cell, pubescent (seed in proximal cell more densely so).

Between 25 to 30 species: mainly in tropical America with a few in tropical Asia and Africa; one species in China.

1. *Wissadula periplocifolia* (Linnaeus) C. Presl ex Thwaites, Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 27. 1858.

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Sida periplocifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 684. 1753; *Abutilon periplocifolium* (Linnaeus) Sweet; *S. periplocifolia* var. *zeylanica* Candolle; *Wissadula rostrata* (Schumacher & Thonning) J. D. Hooker var. *zeylanica* Masters; *W. zeylanica* Medikus, nom. illeg. superfl.

Subshrubs, ca. 1 m tall. Stems densely fawn stellate puberulent, with both stellate and simple hairs. Stipules subulate, ca. 3 mm; petiole 0.3–2 cm, stellate tomentose and with twisted hairs; leaf blade long triangular, ovate, or ovate-lanceolate, 3–7 \times 1.5–2.5 cm, abaxially stellate tomentose, adaxially minutely stellate pubescent, base truncate to subcordate, margin entire or shallowly undulate, apex long acuminate to acute. Lower flow-

ers solitary, axillary, upper flowers in lax, terminal panicles to 80 cm. Pedicel 1–2 cm, to 4 cm in fruit, puberulent, articulate near tip. Calyx cup-shaped, ca. 3 mm, lobes ovate to triangular, acute. Corolla pale yellow, ca. 7 mm in diam.; petals obovate, ca. 4 mm. Staminal column glabrous, free filaments many, 1–2 mm. Style short. Pseudocapsule obconic, ca. 1 cm in diam., apically truncate; mericarps with a short mucro, abaxially rounded, subglabrous. Seeds black, ca. 3 mm, single proximal seed densely hairy with simple long hairs, 2 distal seeds stellate hairy or with simple hairs. Fl. Sep–Feb.

Thickets near sea level, dry slopes, roadsides. Hainan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Thailand].

The occurrence of this species in Africa and America has been questioned (e.g., by Vollesen, Fl. Ethiopia Eritrea 2(2): 239. 1995) with the African plants assigned to *Wissadula rostrata*, which has white stem hairs, leaves 3–12 cm wide, and filaments 4–5 mm.

